

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Final Office Action mailed April 1, 2009 (hereafter "Office Action"). The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. Through this response, claims 11-12, 15, and 20-25 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and claim 19, which has been allowed, is the only pending claim. Allowance of the application and pending claim are respectfully requested. In short, all claims (other than allowed claim 19) have been cancelled in this submission, placing this application in immediate condition for allowance.

I. Interview Summary

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Uhlenhake for taking the time to discuss the outstanding Office Action by telephone, on June 12, 2009 with Applicant's representative, Sherry Womack (Reg. No. 62,356). In that telephone discussion, Applicant's representative proposed amendments to claims 11 and 20. During the discussion, the Examiner acknowledged that the proposed amendments would probably render claims 11 and 20 patentable over the cited references. However, the Examiner noted that he would have to perform further searching, if the proposed amendments were submitted.

II. Allowed Claim 19

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action on p. 9 that claim 19 is allowed. The Office Action includes some broad conclusory statements that may be viewed as an oversimplification of the examination issues, and if taken out of context, could give rise to an improper interpretation of the claims as well as the file history. For

these reasons, Applicants provide the following comments. Applicants assert that there are multiple grounds supporting allowance of claim 19, including grounds in addition to those stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, it should not be assumed that Applicants agree with the accuracy of the characterizations of the cited references and the claim elements in the Office Action. Further, the scope and validity of claim 19 should be determined based upon the entire combination of features in claim 19, as opposed to only the particular feature or features pointed out by the Office Action.

III. Canceled Claims 11-12, 15, and 20-25

As identified above, claims 11-12, 15, and 20-25 have been canceled from the application through this Response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently. Since all rejected claims have been canceled from the application and claim 19 is allowed, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, the application is in condition for allowance. A credit card authorization is provided herewith to cover the fee associated with the accompanying petition for extension of time. No additional fee is believed to be due in connection with this submission. If, however, any additional fee is deemed to be payable, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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